



Los Angeles County AUDIT COMMITTEE

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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

January 04, 2011

8 JANUARY 4, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request to extend the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve introduction of ordinance extending the Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services' sunset review date to November 30, 2013

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services (Commission) was created by the Board pursuant to Chapter 3.54 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Board approved the most recent sunset review extension in July 2004, which expired on June 30, 2007.

The Commission advises the Board and the Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) on matters relating to public social services. In addition, the Commission's duties include the following:

- Conduct studies and make recommendations to the Board and Director of DPSS on the management and operation of DPSS, to promote efficient and cost effective delivery of Departmental services.
- Conduct public hearings to determine public needs, cooperate with organizations and private

citizens to improve public social services, and advises the Board and Director of DPSS on issues and recommendations based upon public input.

- Review proposed federal, State and local legislation and regulations for potential impact on the County and make recommendations to the Board and Director of DPSS.
- Appoint staff personnel as authorized by the Board and direct staff activities in support of Commission objectives.

During this review period, July 2007 to August 2009 the Commission accomplished the following:

- Established the Ad-Hoc Committee on General Relief (GR) to review the GR program (Program) operations, DPSS' efforts to strengthen the Program and make recommendations for Program development. Participated in a GR Restructuring Workshop to provide input on how to reorganize and strengthen the Program, resulting in the Board's approval of over 25 recommendations to better assist GR participants.
- Developed goals and objectives for the Committee on Review and Evaluation of CalWORKs (CORE), facilitated and attended CORE meetings, and advised DPSS on the welfare-to-work program. Through CORE, the Commission helped DPSS improve the welfare-to-work program, such as providing affordable child care, strengthening specialized supportive services and developing a plan to reduce program restrictions.
- Advocated for a subsidized employment program for CalWORKs participants, which the Board approved. The program provides employer incentives for employing CalWORKs participants.
- Advised DPSS to evaluate departmental program and service effectiveness, including identifying issues that negatively impact resources program participants receive. Research results provided valuable information to improve services.
- Stimulated Food Stamp outreach efforts by advising DPSS to increase their efforts to inform the public about program qualifications and providing assistance to individuals applying for the Food Stamp program.
- Assisted with the public inquires and provided a discussion forum for over 80 organizations to obtain input on the delivery of public social services.
- Advised DPSS on the policy implications of various public assistance programs such as Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, GR and IN-Home Supportive Services.
- Routinely met with the Director of DPSS and staff to provide input on issues related to CalWORKs, GR and At-Risk-Youth.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Commissioners receive a stipend of \$25 per month. During the calendar years of 2007 to 2009, all Commissioners voluntarily waived their monthly stipends. DPSS provides the Commission with staff support, including two full-time DPSS staff and a DPSS-paid consultant who worked for the Commission for a limited period during Fiscal Year 2008-09. DPSS estimates the Commission received approximately \$215,000 in staff support, services and supplies in 2008-09.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Commission has 15 members; three appointed by each Supervisor. Commission members have experience in the management and operation of large private businesses, civic affairs or public charitable activities. One of three members nominated by each Supervisor should be either a welfare recipient or a representative of a welfare rights organization.

From April 2007 to December 2009, the Commission met 27 times with an average attendance of 8.4 members (56%). The Commission recognizes its low attendance, and is actively working to improve attendance by sending meeting reminders and taking measures to fill vacancies.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Increase the Commission's organizational effectiveness by establishing subcommittees, maintaining the Ad Hoc Committee on At-Risk-Youth, and reviewing DPSS' programs and operations and making recommendations.
- Improve communication with the Board and DPSS and enhance associations with other County commissions and the community.
- Continue to facilitate CORE meetings and evaluate the CalWORKS Program.
- Conduct public hearings on social welfare issues and report on public input.
- Continue to work with DPSS and the public on how to reorganize and strengthen the GR Program.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Louisa Ollague". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Louisa" and last name "Ollague" clearly distinguishable.

LOUISA OLLAGUE
Chair

LO:tpk

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Chair, Commission for Public Social Services



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3873
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

WENDY L. WATANABE
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

MARIA M. OMS
CHIEF DEPUTY

ASST. AUDITOR-CONTROLLERS

ROBERT A. DAVIS
JOHN NAIMO
JUDI E. THOMAS

September 28, 2010

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION
FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services' sunset review date to November 30, 2013.

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services (Commission) was created by the Board pursuant to Chapter 3.56 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Board approved the most recent sunset review extension in July 2004.

The Commission advises the Board and the Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) on matters relating to public social services. In addition, the Commission's duties include the following:

- Conduct studies and make recommendations to the Board and Director of DPSS on the management and operation of DPSS, to promote efficient and cost effective delivery of Departmental services.
- Conduct public hearings to determine public needs, cooperate with organizations and private citizens to improve public social services, and advise the Board and Director of DPSS on issues and recommendations based upon public input.

- Review proposed federal, State and local legislation and regulations for potential impact on the County and make recommendations to the Board and Director of DPSS.
- Appoint staff personnel as authorized by the Board and direct staff activities in support of Commission objectives.

The Commission has 15 members, three appointed by each Supervisor. Commission members have experience in the management and operation of large private businesses, civic affairs or public charitable activities. One of the three members nominated by each Supervisor should be either a welfare recipient or a representative of a welfare rights organization.

Commissioners receive \$25 per month if they attended at least one meeting during that month. During calendar years 2007 to 2009, all Commissioners voluntarily waived their monthly stipends.

DPSS provides the Commission with staff support, including two full-time DPSS staff and a DPSS-paid consultant who worked for the Commission for a limited period during fiscal year 2008-09. DPSS estimates the Commission received approximately \$215,000 in staff support and services/supplies in 2008-09.

JUSTIFICATION

From April 2007 to December 2009, the Commission met 27 times with an average attendance of 8.4 (56%) members. The Commission recognizes its low attendance, and is actively working to improve attendance by sending meeting reminders to Commission members and taking measures to fill vacancies. Although the Commission's average attendance was low, the Commission successfully fulfilled its duties.

During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Established the Ad Hoc Committee on General Relief (GR) to review GR program (Program) operations, DPSS' efforts to strengthen the Program and make recommendations for Program development. Participated in a GR Restructuring Workshop to provide input on how to reorganize and strengthen the Program, resulting in the Board's approval of over 25 recommendations to better assist GR participants.
- Developed goals and objectives for the Committee on Review and Evaluation of CalWORKs (CORE), facilitated and attended CORE meetings, and advised DPSS on the welfare-to-work program. Through CORE, the Commission helped DPSS improve the welfare-to-work program, such as providing affordable child

care, strengthening specialized supportive services and developing a plan to reduce program restrictions.

- Advocated for a subsidized employment program for CalWORKS participants, which the Board approved. The program provides employer incentives for employing CalWORKS participants.
- Advised DPSS to evaluate departmental program and service effectiveness, including identifying issues that negatively impact resources program participants receive. Research results provided valuable information to improve services.
- Stimulated Food Stamp outreach efforts by advising DPSS to increase their efforts to inform the public about program qualifications and providing assistance to individuals applying for the Food Stamp program.
- Assisted with public inquiries and provided a discussion forum for over 80 organizations to obtain input on the delivery of public social services.
- Advised DPSS on the policy implications of various public assistance programs such as Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, CalWORKS, GR and In-Home Supportive Services.
- Routinely met with the Director of DPSS and staff to provide input on issues related to CalWORKS, GR and At-Risk-Youth.

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Increase the Commission's organizational effectiveness by establishing subcommittees, maintaining the Ad Hoc Committee on At-Risk-Youth, and reviewing DPSS' programs and operations and making recommendations.
- Improve communication with the Board and DPSS, and enhance associations with other County commissions and the community.
- Continue to facilitate CORE meetings and evaluate the CalWORKS Program.
- Conduct public hearings on social welfare issues and report on public input.
- Continue to work with DPSS and the public on how to reorganize and strengthen the GR Program.

Please call me if you have any questions, or staff may contact Jim Schneiderman at (213) 253-0101.

WLW:MMO:JLS:TK

Attachments

c: Philip L. Browning, Director, Department of Public Social Services
Frank G. De Balogh, Chair, Commission for Public Social Services
Judy Martell, Executive Director, Commission for Public Social Services
Robin A. Guerrero, Chief, Board Operations
Angie Montes, Acting Chief, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The stated mission is as set forth in the Board order establishing the Commission. **CONCUR.**

Section 1. Relevance. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission advises the Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) on public social service issues, conducts studies, makes recommendations on the delivery of services, holds public hearings, and reviews and makes recommendations on proposed legislation.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT.**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission meets monthly. From April 2007 to December 2009, the Commission met 27 times with an average attendance of 8.4 (56%) members.

Although the Commission's meeting frequency is **SATISFACTORY**, the Commission's attendance is **UNSATISFACTORY**. The Commission recognizes its low attendance and is actively working to improve attendance by sending meeting reminders to Commission members and taking measures to fill vacancies. Although the Commission's average attendance was low, the Commission successfully fulfilled its duties.

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During the evaluation period, the Commission's accomplishments included the following:

- Established the Ad Hoc Committee on General Relief (GR) to review GR program (Program) operations, DPSS' efforts to strengthen the Program and make recommendations for Program development. Participated in a GR Restructuring Workshop to provide input on how to reorganize and strengthen the Program, resulting in the Board's approval of over 25 recommendations to better assist GR participants.

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- Routinely met with the Director of DPSS and staff to provide input on issues related to CalWORKS, GR and At-Risk-Youth.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Increase the Commission's organizational effectiveness by establishing subcommittees, maintaining the Ad Hoc Committee on At-Risk-Youth, and reviewing DPSS' programs and operations and making recommendations.
- Improve communication with the Board and DPSS, and enhance associations with other County commissions and the community.

- Continue to facilitate CORE meetings and evaluate the CalWORKS program.
- Conduct public hearings on social welfare issues and report on public input.
- Continue to work with DPSS and the public on how to reorganize and strengthen the GR Program.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

The Commission does not have a separate budget. DPSS provides the Commission with staff support, and estimates the Commission received approximately \$215,000 in staff support and services/supplies for fiscal year 2008-09.

The Commission's expenses appear to be **WARRANTED**.

Section 7. Recommendation.

EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES TO NOVEMBER 30, 2013.

Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services Attendance Record

Commissioner	Nominated by:	6/30/07	9/30/07	12/31/07	3/31/08	6/30/08	9/30/08	12/31/08	3/31/09	6/30/09	9/30/09	12/31/09	Totals	% Attended
Number of Meetings per Quarter		3	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	27	
Vibiana M. Andrade	1st District	0	0	0	0								0	0%
Carol Ojeda-Kimbrough	1st District	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	2	1	1	12	44%
Gabriel Andrew Sandoval	1st District	1	0	1	3	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	13	48%
Vacant	1st District					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Egerton Forster	2nd District	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	10	37%
Rickey Ivie	2nd District	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	22%
Ullis Williams	2nd District	3	2	2	3	3	1	2	3	2	0	1	22	81%
James N. Adler, Esq.	3rd District	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	19	70%
Corinne J. Sanchez, Esq.	3rd District	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	20	74%
Leonard Schneiderman, Ph.D.	3rd District	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	0	18	67%
Jerold A. Goddard	4th District	2	0										2	50% (1)
Charles M. House	4th District	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	2	2	16	59%
Helen Najjar	4th District	2	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	0	2	20	74%
John J. Parsons	4th District			2	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	16	73%
Joe Brown	5th District	2	1	2	2	1	2	0	2	2	1	1	16	59%
Michael Bloom	5th District	2	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	2	1	0	12	44%
Frank G. De Balogh, Ph.D.	5th District	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	3	2	2	25	93%
Totals		25	18	19	25	25	16	15	25	27	15	17	227	
Average Attendance per Meeting													8.4	

Legend:

 Vacancy filled or Commissioner did not serve during this period.

(1) Commissioner resigned after the Commission held one of two meetings for the quarter ended September 2007. Percentage based on number of meetings Commissioner was active on Commission.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN
County Counsel

December 1, 2010

Twila P. Kerr
Head Staff
Commission Services Division
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street, B-50
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Re: Ordinance Amending Title 3 – Advisory Commissions and
Committees of the Los Angeles Code**

Dear Ms. Kerr:


You have asked this office to prepare an ordinance amending Title 3 –
Advisory Commissions and Committees of the Los Angeles Code.

The analysis and ordinance may be presented to the Board of Supervisors
for consideration.

Very truly yours,

ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN
County Counsel

By


DAVID R. BEAUDET
Senior Deputy County Counsel
Social Services Division

APPROVED AND RELEASED:


LEELA A. KAPUR
Chief Deputy County Counsel

DRB:dt
Enclosure

HOA.749879.1

ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Title 3 – Advisory Commissions and Committees of the Los Angeles County Code by extending the sunset review date for the Commission on Public Social Services to November 30, 2013.

ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN
County Counsel

By



DAVID R. BEAUDET
Senior Deputy County Counsel

DB:dt

Requested: 11/23/10

Revised: 11/24/10

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Title 3 – Advisory Commissions and Committees of the Los Angeles County Code, relating to extending the sunset review date for the Commission on Public Social Services.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 3.56.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3.56.120 Sunset review date.

The sunset review date for the commission on public social services shall be ~~June 30, 2007~~ November 30, 2013.

[356120DBCC]